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PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING, held at the Society's Apartments, William-street, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, April 6th, 1865.

The REV. CHARLES A. VIGNOLES, M. A., Rector of Clonmacnoise, in the Chair.

The following new Members were elected :—

Lieutenant-Colonel William Campbell Mollan, C.B., Newtown House, Thomastown : proposed by Barry Delany, Esq., M. D.

William Anderson, Esq., Barrister-at-law, 47, Dawson-street, Dublin; and John Gibson, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, 198, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin : proposed by C. H. Foot, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

William E. Pratt, Esq., Upper Mallow-street, Limerick; and Robert B. Guinness, Esq., The Strand, Limerick : proposed by Henry James, Esq.

William A. Mahony, Esq., Manager, National Bank, Ennis-corthy : proposed by George C. Roberts, Esq.

John Barden, Esq., Coolcliff House, Foulksmill, county of Wexford : proposed by J. Kennedy, Esq.

Samuel F. Lynn, Esq., 10, Warwick-place, Warwick-square, London : proposed by the Rev. John Lymberry.

Bryan Mullally, Esq., M. D., Templemore : proposed by Michael Mullally, Esq.

James Petit, Esq., 4, Cabra Terrace, Phippsborough, Dublin : proposed by Mr. Prim.

The Treasurer reported that several of the Members included in the published list of those provisionally struck off for non-payment of their subscriptions, had since applied to be restored, paying up their arrears. The names were as follows :—The Rev. Milward Crook; the Rev. P. Meany; P. J. Byrne, Esq.; E. M. Dillon, Esq.; Thomas Hart, Esq., J. P.; Rev. Stephen O'Halloran; Mr. Patrick M'Gragh; Surgeon J. A. P. Colles; and S. C. Hall, Esq. Mr. Patrick Durnan had also honourably paid his arrear, but had retired from the Society.

The Chairman stated that at the late King's County assizes no trial had taken place in the case of the wanton injury of monuments at Clonmacnoise, the Government having declined to prosecute a second time. The Committee of the Society had incurred some preliminary expenses in the matter, but did not consider it advisable to take any further steps, feeling that enough had been done to vindicate and make known the law, and prevent a recurrence of such wanton outrages. The Committee proposed, with the sanction of the donors, to apply what remained in hands of the prosecution fund to the reparation, as far as possible, of the injuries sustained by the monuments at Clonmacnoise.

This proposition received the full sanction of the meeting.

The following presentations were received, and thanks voted to the donors :—

By the Philological Society : their "Transactions," 1854-64, inclusive, ten volumes.

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland : their "Journal," Nos. 83 and 84.

By the British Archæological Association : their "Journal" for March and June, 1865.

By the Surrey Archæological Society : "Surrey Archæological Collections," Vol. III.

By the London and Middlesex Archæological Society : their "Transactions," Vol. II., Part 6.

By the Royal Institution of Cornwall : their 47th "Annual Report," and "Journal," No. 3.

By the Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Society : their "Magazine," No. 26.

By the Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society : their "Proceedings," No. 18.

By the Cambrian Institute : "The Cambrian Journal," for December, 1863, and March, 1864.

By the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society : their "Annual Report," 1863-64 ; also a Lecture "On the Early History of Leeds," by Thomas Wright, Esq., M. A.

By the Geological and Polytechnic Society of the West Riding of Yorkshire : their "Report," 1863-64.

By the Cambridge Antiquarian Society : "A History of the Parish of Horningsey, in the County of Cambridge," by W. Keatinge Clay, B.D.

By the Banbridge Literary and Mutual Improvement Society : their "Prospectus," 1864-65.

By the Publisher : "The Builder," Nos. 1145-1158, inclusive.

By the Publisher: "The Gentleman's Magazine" for January, February, and March, 1865.

By Llewellynn Jewitt, Esq.: "The Reliquary," No. 19.

By the Author: "Memoir of John Stearne, Founder and First President of the College of Physicians," by T. W. Belcher, M. D.

By the Rev. Beaver H. Blacker, M. A.: "Annals of Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital," No. 1.

By the Author: "Scela na Esergi: a Treatise on the Resurrection, now printed for the first time from the original Irish." By J. O'Beirne Crowe, A. B.

By the Author: "The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland." By John P. Prendergast, Esq.

By the Rev. G. L. Shannon, "Theologica Tripartita Universa." This book is locally interesting, as containing at page 160 of Tome III. a most interesting description of the Market Cross of Kilkenny, and a contemporary account of its defacement by the soldiers of Cromwell.

By the Dean and Chapter of St. Canice: a specimen of the original mural decoration of the Cathedral of St. Canice preserved on a portion of the old plaster from the chapel at the south side of the choir of the cathedral. This chapel having been vaulted at a period long subsequent to its original erection, it was determined by the Chapter in the course of the restorations at present taking place, that the vault should be removed. In this removal the original mural decoration against which the vault had been built was brought to light, and proved to be of the same character as that of a fragment which had been previously discovered in the North Chapel. The decoration consisted of a border of flowing foliage at the top of the wall, the rest of which was covered with a simple masonry pattern in black lines. The foliage was executed in black and red colours, and was well preserved. A large portion of the plaster containing the foliage pattern having been loosened from the wall by damp, Mr. Robertson, the Hon. Curator of the Museum, had been enabled to remove it entire; and having subsequently "backed" it with plaster of paris, he had so preserved it as that it will form an interesting object in the Society's Museum.

By Mr. R. Malcomson, on the part of Mr. Bower, C. E., County Surveyor of Carlow: an ancient instrument of torture, now totally disused—the brank, or "scolds' bridle," devised for the punishment or restraint of "voluble" females. It was constructed of iron bars, formed in the shape of a helmet, with a large piece of roughened iron, to be inserted in the mouth and keep down the tongue. The bars of the back were hinged, and so fashioned as to be reduced or expanded, according to the size of the head, locking behind by a nut

and screw. Several specimens of the brank, occurring in England, have been noticed and engraved in archæological publications in the sister country; but this appears to be the first instrument of the kind discovered in Ireland. Mr. Malcomson communicated the following observations respecting the brank from Mr. Bower :—

“My father left it amongst a lot of curiosities, coins, and antiquities which he had collected, chiefly in the county of Down; and the *tradition*, in my mind, which he handed down to me is, that it was given him by the governor or some other officer of the old gaol of Down, at the time of the removal of the prisoners from the old prison to the new gaol, in the year 1832, or thereabouts; and that it was used as a mode of punishing *loquacious ladies*, whose powers of speech could not be got under control by any other mediæval contrivance. How long since it was so used I cannot tell; but that it *was* used for that purpose in the place named there can be no doubt.”

By Mr. Richard Culley : a collection of modern copper tokens and foreign coins.

By Mr. Edward Benn, Glenravel : three flint implements, accompanied by the following paper on flint implements found in the county of Antrim :—

“Many years ago I was aware that in certain localities of this neighbourhood were to be found great numbers of flints of a small size. On mentioning the circumstance to an eminent geologist, he said they had been brought here by what he called a drift. This I took for granted, and these objects were for a time unnoticed; but afterwards, some of them having come into my hands which showed evident indications of art, I determined to investigate the matter. I intimated that I would give some pence to those who brought quantities of flints. When this new industry was discovered, the children rushed to it with an eagerness only surpassed by their seniors at the gold diggings, and in about a year more than twelve thousand specimens were collected. From a careful examination of these I do not hesitate to say, that there is not a stone found that has not been brought here by human agency, except the natural basalt stone of the country.

“The examination of these stones is a matter of great interest; through them we obtain glimpses of the domestic habits of our remote ancestors; for, notwithstanding that many immigrants have at different times entered the country, there seems to be little doubt that the present inhabitants of these islands are the descendants of the ancient Britons, and that the words they used are the words in use at this day. The word remains, and the idea it conveyed remains; the object has, with altered circumstances, changed. About fifteen per cent. of these flints are of little interest—they are the remains left after striking off the objects to be afterwards finished, and pieces struck off not applicable. I include in this a considerable number of flint pebbles greatly smoothed by friction; I call these fire stones—they may have been used for procuring fire by friction; this is uncertain; but it is the only way I can account for their polished appearance.

“The great bulk of the remainder may be described as pieces split off, and used as knives; they may be described as about one and a half to two inches long, by one inch in breadth, with a sharp edge, and thick back; they are polished at the top, where the fore finger was placed; by seizing this with the finger and thumb of the right hand, for which purpose there is generally a hollow place well adapted for holding fast, then placing the forefinger on the smooth place at top, a piece of flesh, held firmly with the finger and thumb of the left hand, might easily be cut into convenient pieces for the mouth: they are also well adapted for skinning small animals, scraping, or other useful purposes. Not long since two men, having caught a hare, skinned and divided it very neatly with one of these flints. It is only by being very carefully looked at that their use can be determined. On a first glance they appear such fragments as are produced by breaking a large flint; a few were found about four inches long, by two or three in breadth; they might have been used for skinning or cutting up a cow or other large animal.

“The objects on which a greater amount of labour was bestowed consist of—

- “1. Small spear-like instruments;
- “2. Long-shaped knives;
- “3. Spoons or pounding instruments;
- “4. Objects, the uses of which for the most part cannot be determined.

“The spears may be divided into two classes. Those of the best finish are spear-shaped, very neatly made, about two inches long by one inch at the base, sharp on both edges, and having a very sharp point. These I call hand spears, as there is invariably a place at the base for holding by the finger and thumb. Such a weapon would not be of any effect except when very closely engaged. Those of the second class are far more numerous, not so well finished; often sharp on only one side; frequently with an indentation on the edge for the purpose of receiving a ligature, which was commonly very thin, judging from the smallness of the indentation—this was generally near the point; sometimes two of these indentations are found both on the same side, very rarely one on each side; these would appear to have been fixed on the end of a stick which would have made a most effective weapon. This instrument must have been in very general use, judging from the number found; it seems to have been the great weapon of antiquity, and was known by different names; probably its oldest name was a club—*cly ab* signifies a stone-headed thing; it required a combination (a number united) of these stones to form a club. In Lancashire, a collier who joins a club or combination is called a *knob stick*—this is another form of expression for the same thing. This ancient weapon was also called a loggerhead; *lia gar* signifies a sharp or hooked stone. This weapon was easily made by splitting a stout stick, and inserting the stone in the cleft, afterwards binding with a strip of hide. The most simple form would be to place six in a row on one side; this would not be so effective as would three on opposite sides; still better would be the same number of six arranged with two on one side, having on the opposite side two others, and in the middle space two, one on each side; this arrangement is what we find in the bronze clubs; besides the points fixed in the side of the stick, it is most probable that in some cases a longer and sharper stone was fixed in the end, to act as a spear; thus some

clubs would have six stones, and some seven. Would this account for the singular phrase of people when quarrelling being said to be at *sixes and sevens*? The phrase commonly employed to describe an assembly quarrelling, seems to be derived from this instrument, as when they are said to resort to club law, or raise obstacles, or go to loggerheads.

"The knives vary from four inches long to an extremely small size, generally straight, and neatly made; they are in general very fragile, many are found broken; some have a little handle, formed by cutting off a part of the blade; none appear to have been fixed in a wooden handle; there is generally a place at the end for the finger.

"The spoons are most singular objects, and have been but little noticed. From the great number found, they must have been in very general use; they have a round head, with a projecting handle; many have been formed by splitting a round or long-shaped flint nodule; this was done so as to give a graceful ladle-like curve; the head was then chipped neatly round the edge; the handle was then formed, in which was always made a place for the finger and thumb, as from its many uses it required to be held very firmly; they vary in length from three or four inches to an extremely small size; they appear to have been as much used for pounding or bruising as for supping, the end being round and thick. Some were found thin on the edge, very neatly made, which might have been used for feeding invalids; and some very small and thin, seemingly for feeding infants; in many cases the handle is sharp on one side. When this was used, it became, instead of a spoon, a *ken-ieve*, or knife; the spoon is very smooth, as if prepared to be licked when the food was led to the lips. The Irish word *liach*,^a a spoon, as well as the English word ladle, signifies a stone instrument; the latter word, *lia d'el*, intimates that it is a long stone thing. From what has been stated, it is evident that the most important use of this instrument was pounding or bruising. What description of food was used becomes a very curious question; it may have been animal food, preserved by drying. This instrument was called a *moel*, which signifies any long thing with a round end; it is the precursor of the mill; with it our progenitors pounded or moulded the meal of meat; the Highlander grinds his snuff with a *mull*, the painter grinds with a *muller*; the farmer pounds furze with a *mell*; and a great house with many huge stones revolving is a mill, and it prepares meal for the million. Some have been found wanting handles; these were *moo-lers*, or round stumps; they were also used for pounding or bruising, but were not so convenient.

"This word has come down to us in many more forms:—this little stone, three inches long, is a *moel*; the painter uses a maul stick; the window has a mullion; a long artificial walk is a mall; a great wall to enclose a harbour is a mole; and the great peninsula of Cantyre is a mull, by some called a mool, by others a moyle. The first occasion on which a *moel* was used was identical both in idea and act with proceedings we see every day. *Moo-el* literally signifies the round end of the arm; thus an arm with a fist on the end was a *moel*; to strike with fists is to maul; a fight with fists is a mill; a general fight is a *melee*; the local troops are the militia—

¹ Although this is the common name in this neighbourhood call it spon, that for a spoon, those who understand Irish is a sup-en.

the national troops are the military. It is the origin of many other words—as, to mulct, from the toll levied by the miller, called *mooler*, or *mutter*; to moyle, from the laborious work of grinding with a handmill.

“A number of objects were found, such as I have not found noticed elsewhere. From the great number found, they would seem to have been in general use for some purpose that I cannot explain. They are from one to two inches long, by about an inch in breadth; thin pieces of flint of a pearl-like appearance, of one general type, less than one-eighth of an inch in thickness; out of this is cut, with extreme neatness and precision, a semicircle of less than an inch in diameter; some are found with a much smaller semicircle. I enclose one of these curious objects, also a small knife and spoon.

“The number of arrow heads found was much less than might have been expected, not being more than twenty or thirty; among them were found some very singular varieties. It must be remembered that much of the land in which they were found had been long in cultivation, and many may have been picked up and dispersed. The stone celts, called thunderbolts, were far more numerous; perhaps fifty were collected—a few very rude, but generally neatly made, about four inches long by two in breadth, formed of different kinds of stone, none of which is found here. Among them were some beautiful varieties, about two inches in length, and one only an inch long, the smallest I have ever seen. These celts seem to have been used for splitting wood or other things, as would appear from the great number found broken, in many cases into fragments, as if they had been struck with great violence; they are far more numerous, and more generally diffused than the arrow. There were also collected a good many stones cut for use, not flints; the most general were pebbles of quartz, split so as to produce a sharp edge, besides a few cut into spoons or pounders; the cutting of these is not so neat as that of the flints; it is a stone far more difficult to manipulate; several knives and spoons were found cut out of black, close-grained stone, such as was used for making the celts; what is remarkable about them is, that some of them have something of the curve that is assumed naturally by the flint.

“It is singular, when we consider the extraordinary skill shown in cutting stones, that nothing of an ornamental kind was found, except a beautiful stone ring. No stone beads were found, although they are not rare. A very neatly cut triangle of hard black stone was found, having three nearly equal sides of about two inches each, by about half an inch in thickness; it was probably connected with some superstitious or religious idea.

“A considerable number of lucky stones were found. These are nodules of flint, having a natural hole; many of them have a brown polished appearance, as if they had been kept in smoky houses. The lucky stone is a very ancient superstition, and one that is hardly yet discontinued. They would also appear in size to have had reference to the rank of the holder. The poor people in this locality were content with a stone varying from the size of a gooseberry to that of a small apple; some of these may be even yet found doing duty in remote localities. The royal family indulged in a large boulder, which is still preserved under the coronation chair.

"The tooth of the great horse so frequently found in this county would also appear to have some superstitious idea connected with it, as many of them are found brown and polished, like the lucky stone. If this was the tooth of a horse, it must have been a very singular variety; they are as thick as the tooth of a large horse of the present day, and about twice as long, and slightly curved; some are found no longer than the tooth of our present horse, and of the same depth, but only half the breadth; they are found singly, and are called by the children, giants' tusks.¹ Many other things were found, which it would be difficult to describe; several mullers were found, some neatly cut, but much smaller than those generally used by painters, some extremely small and rude; one was a round nodule of hard black stone, on one side of which a flat surface had been made for bruising or grinding; it was the size of a large orange; a few flat flints, about as large as the palm of the hand, and about as hollow, seemingly used for pounding or bruising on; these were probably used for preparing some superior article of food—the general bruising could have been done on a common flat stone; this was a *mool brud*; baking was formerly done on what was called a mould board.

"I now come to speak of the circumstances under which these stones were found. This district is somewhat elevated, lying along the slopes of low mountains, and nearly all were got within a circle of two or three miles; they are not found scattered indiscriminately, but confined to certain localities; wet lands and places much exposed were avoided by the old inhabitants, and no flints are found in such places except an occasional one, seemingly dropped or lost; nearly all are found in places sheltered from the north and west, and having a dry soil. Such places are generally rocky in a small degree, small rocks or large boulders being scattered through them; these were called *doons*, signifying *black stumps*, a name perfectly descriptive; no heath grows in such places; the grass is short and sweet, and in the wettest weather it is dry under the feet; such lands are now called downs. In these dry sheltered spots the dwell-

¹ A very singular find of these teeth occurred in 1849. A pier being to be built, to procure stones for the work a quarry was opened in the face of a rock at a very short distance from the sea; on this occasion a cave was broken up, situated about thirty feet above the sea level; this cave was about thirty feet in length, rather narrow, and such height as a man could walk in by stooping. Its existence had been known, but from difficulty of access it had not been much visited; on entering, stalactites were found on the ceiling, and the floor was covered with stalagmites, on breaking through which there was found rich earth about two feet thick, in which were discovered, scattered without any order, a great quantity of bones, many of them human, including about twenty skulls, all in good preservation; besides some much

decomposed, considered to be bones of fish; there were also found three bronze celts; ten or twelve small silver coins, said to be early Saxon; two of the large teeth already referred to; and two *tobacco pipes*. The celts and coins were taken possession of by the officers of the Board of Works; the bones were buried, and could perhaps be recovered by any one feeling an interest in the subject; the teeth and pipes were lost; they did not differ from the large teeth already described, and the very short small pipes commonly found in this country. I did not see any of these things, but I believe the statement to be correct. My informant is Mr. Dennis Black, of Cushendall, a very accurate observer, who was employed as overseer of the works, and who made a note of the circumstance.

ing of the people were made; the chief lived on a large isolated rock, called the *doon*, or town; traces of the houses are very numerous; they appear to have been made of wattles, as few stones are about them; no accumulation of ashes is found, as if they had not continued long in one place. It is difficult to say anything as to the age of these houses, as even to a comparatively recent period a sort of nomad life existed in many parts of this country; neither is it possible to say anything as to the period of time that has elapsed since these flints were in use; it was probable that some of them were used at a much later period than was generally supposed. There was no bronze knife found; there was no knife found between the thick-backed flint knife and the thick-backed iron knife frequently found in crannogues, which is of no great antiquity. In a country where the flesh of animals must have formed a large portion of the food of the people a knife of some sort was absolutely necessary, and the sharp flint would be a very convenient substitute. A person brought me a beautiful arrow head, and a small bronze ring, which he assured me were dug up in the same spadeful.

"But little light is thrown on the subject of the period at which these flints were used by examining the circumstances under which they are discovered. They are at no great depth in the land; never in the subsoil, but generally near it. An occasional one has been found at the very bottom of a deep bog; indeed, objects of antiquity are very rarely found in bogs,¹ except in such bogs as had at one time been lakes having crannogues; about such places they are very abundant, but of no very high antiquity. It is stated that in the North of Europe flints and bronze objects are found in bogs lying in different zones or strata; I have never heard of any such cases in this country. Different strata certainly are found in bogs, but it is a subject more for the naturalist than the antiquary. Fire was the agent by which the bogs were in many cases produced. A wood of oak was burned; on the ruins of this grew a wood of pine; this was burned, and was followed by birch, willow, or alder, to be succeeded, as we see, by mere heath and moss. The timber found is chiefly pine—a very superior timber, perfectly sound, which is to be attributed in the first instance to its having been charred on the outside. Branches are not found; they, together with the underwood, formed a strong fire at the root, which burned nearly through, causing it to fall with a storm.

"Much more might be said on this subject; but enough has been written to show what interesting results would ensue, if a number of persons residing in different localities far removed from each other would pursue the same course. The investigation is attended with very little cost of money or time. Directions should be given to collect everything that appears different from common stones; many interesting things might be found—I believe there are few localities that would not produce more or less. I caused search to be made in different localities; in one case, fifty miles from this, the number received from distant places was

¹ A singular exception occurred here a short time ago; a man, cutting turf in a high and remote part of the mountains, found deep in the moss three beautifully

formed spoons, made of bone. They were smaller than the smallest teaspoon, with a straight handle four inches long and as thick as a goose quill.

too small to form conclusions, but such as I got seemed inferior in workmanship to those found here ; I am of opinion that the best finished specimens were not made here."

By Mr. A. G. 'Geoghegan, Londonderry : photographs of the coin and medal described in the following communication :—

"Through the courtesy of Mr. Pearsse, I am enabled to send to the Society photographs of a curious medal, or dollar, in his possession, and which, he informs me, was found at the foot of Mullagh Mountain, in the county of Monaghan. It is made of an inferior kind of silver, clipped round the edges, and is in size the same as the photograph. On one face is represented a knight in full armour, mounted, and at the charge, the right arm brandishing a sword. Beneath this effigy, in a kind of small shield, is a mural gateway, flanked by two towers with peaked roofs, surmounted by weathercocks: between the towers is an open gate, with a drawbridge lowered. This I consider may be intended for the Mint mark of the city where the coin was struck. Around this face of the coin, close to the edge, is the following inscription :—

MO : NO . ARG . CIVIT . CARPENSIS.

On the obverse the coin bears a shield of arms, surmounted by a crown closely resembling the English royal one ; above this crown the figures 1668 ; the supporters two lions rampant and crowned; the shield on its field bears another lion rampant—one paw holding a sword above its head, the other, an object much defaced; the motto—*PARVÆ CRESCUNT CONCORDIA*.—is placed, as in the other instance, around and close to the edge. I trust that this description, rough as it is, and the photograph sent, may induce some of the members, skilful in such matters, to favour the Society with their opinion on this interesting coin or medal, now 197 years old.

"Some years ago, a servant, in cleaning the ceiling of a lumber room in an old house in Kinsale, knocked down with the brush a small piece of plaster. On taking this up, she found embedded in it a silver coin, of which I send photographs, of the size of the original: it is pure silver, and thinner than a shilling. On the one side it bears the shields of England, France, Ireland, and Scotland, arranged as a quatrefoil, with the motto *ANGLORUM. NULLI . HACTENUS*; on the other side it has, in a square tablet, the inscription given in the margin, proving it to be a commemoration medal, struck in that year to celebrate the birth of an heir to the English throne, afterwards Charles II.

"This medal has been since its first discovery in the possession of Captain Coppin, of Derry, from whose son, Mr. J. W. Coppin, I received the account of its singular find."

HONOR PRIN

MAG. BRITAN:

FRANC ET HIBER

NAT. 29 MAI

ANNO 1630 ;

The photographs above alluded to having been submitted to Aquilla Smith, Esq., M. D., he communicated the following observations :—

"There were three small medals struck to commemorate the birth of Charles the Second on the 29th of May, 1630.

"The type on the obverse is almost identical on the three medals, viz., four shields, bearing the arms of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, with a star radiating from the centre, behind the shields. Legend—'HACTENVS . ANGLORVM . NVLLI.'

"Reverse of the first variety, within a scroll almost circular, the following words in *five* lines:—

IN HONOR — CARO : PRINC. — MAG. BR. FRA. — ET. HI' NAT'. 29—
MAII. 1630.

"The second variety has the following words in *eight* lines, occupying the entire field of the reverse:—

MEM. — CAROLI · PRIN — MAGN BRITANN. — FRANC. HIBERN. — NATI .
XXIX · MAII — BAPTIZ · XXVII — IVN · MDCXXX. — S —

"The third variety, with the inscription within a square, is the one of which you sent me a photograph. It has not the *star* behind the shields. The legend—'Hactenus Anglorum nulli'—alludes to Charles being the first prince (excepting one that died an infant) that was born heir to Great Britain.—See 'Evelyn on Medals,' p. 121.

"The legend on the obverse of the dollar(?) is *moneta nova argentea civitatis carpensis*. The only clue I can find at present to the name of the city is '*Carpis*, *Carpen.*, op. Pannoniæ infer. in Hungariâ apud Danubium inter Strigonium et Budam occurs.' *Vide* 'Dictionarium Historicum Geographicum, a Carolo Stephano.' The arms on the reverse are not sufficiently distinct to make out the details."

By the same: several photographs of Celtic remains, near Saumur, in France, in reference to which Mr. 'Geoghegan said that no doubt many Members were aware of the existence in France of numerous Celtic monuments, some of them in almost perfect preservation, especially those in the department of Maine and Loire. A French nobleman of Irish extraction, Le Viscomte O'Neill de Tyrone, residing at Saumur, in the neighbourhood of one of the most celebrated of these erections, called the Dolmen of Pontigne, had forwarded to him, to be submitted to the Society, a description and photograph of the singular monument referred to; both of which he (Mr. 'Geoghegan) had great pleasure in laying before the meeting, and further in moving that the Viscount be elected an Honorary Member of this Society:—

"Within one mile from the town of Saumur, on the east, is situated the village of Bayneux. Beyond its crossroad we observe the most beautiful *Dolmen* that exists in Anjou, where there are a great number of primæval Celtic remains. It is of an oblong form, about 23 feet in breadth, and 62 feet in length. Measuring from the outside to the roof, its height is about $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet. It is composed of 15 stones of a greenish-grey colour; nine

are sunk in the field (four for the side, and one for the extremity); two others are standing, one at the entrance, which serves to close the opening, while the other supports the largest of the flat stones which form the roof. The roof itself is composed of 4 stones of different sizes, the largest 24 feet in length, and about 23 feet in breadth, and in thickness varying from 2 feet to $2\frac{3}{4}$ feet. The stones which form the Dolmen are not placed vertically, but incline inwards and towards their upper side; but those which are at the entrance, and that which supports the roof, are perpendicular. The celebrated Dolemieux, officer of Carbineers, was in the garrison of Saumur in 1779, and had the curiosity to have the Dolmen examined and trenched to ascertain the size and strength of the immense blocks which composed it, as well as to discover some indications of its original design; but unfortunately he was unsuccessful in the latter, as nothing was found which would throw any light on the subject. He, however, ascertained that the stones were sunk into the ground to the depth of about 10 feet.

"About a hundred steps from the great Dolmen, towards the south, there is a single upright stone, evidently of Celtic origin, which seems to have been connected with the extraordinary erection which I have described; this stone is in height $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and terminates in a point.

"All these immense blocks, as well as those which compose similar erections in Anjou, are of grey sandstone, of which there is a great quantity in the district.

"We observe likewise, on the border of the road, three hollows leading to the River Thone. At a distance of one mile from Saumur, near Riou, there is another of those singular primæval erections. This Dolmen is of a parallelogram shape, and is composed of six stones; three form the north side, one the west, and another the south; the sixth forms the roof. The entire length of this *pierre couverte* is $19\frac{1}{2}$ feet, its breadth 11 feet.

"At about 500 steps from this, there are in a vineyard the ruins of another large Dolmen, which was $52\frac{1}{2}$ feet long and 31 feet broad; of this only three stones are standing. In one of them is a hole, giving evident proofs that the monument has been at one time exposed to the action of fire."

The Rev. James Graves said he had much pleasure in seconding Mr. Geoghegan's motion for the election of Viscount O'Neill de Tyrone as an Honorary Member of their Society; not only on account of the interest of his communication, but also because he felt much good might arise from cultivating a connexion with the descendants of ancient Irish families settled in France.

The Viscount O'Neill de Tyrone was then unanimously elected an Honorary Member of the Society.

Mr. Malcomson sent for exhibition, from the library of Robert Clayton Browne, Esq., of Browne's Hill, "An Abridgment of all the Public Printed Irish Statutes," published by Andrew Crook, at Dublin, in 1700, accompanied by the following paper:—

"The volume appears to have originally belonged to families named

Rossell and Galbraith respectively (who formerly resided at Old Derrig, in the parish of Killeshin, in the Queen's County), and seems to have been made a sort of family record, containing as it does entries of the births of several of the former (Rossell) family from 1691 to 1700; and of the latter (the Galbraiths) from 1716 to 1721, as follows :—

“ ‘Mary Rossell was borne at Dublin on Wensday the 14th of Octo^r about six of the clock at night an^o 1691.

“ ‘Elizabeth Rossell was borne at Old Derrick on friday the 27th of Aprill about three of the clock in the morning anno 1693.

“ ‘Jane Rossell was borne at Old Derrick on Saturday the 18th of Aprill about eight of the clock in the morning anno 1695.

“ ‘George Rossell was borne at Old Derrick on Wensday the 15th day of May about nine of the clock in the morning anno 1700.

“ ‘Mary Bar: Galbraith wass borne the 26th day of nov^r 1716 at Old Derrick att ii a clock 36 minitts att night.

“ ‘Joseph Galbraith was born on Sattirday morning at 4 a clock Decem-ber the 21th 1717.

“ ‘Samⁿ Galbraith born at Courran good Friday about 12 a clock att [*sic*] 1719.

“ ‘John Galbraith Born att Carlow Ester Sunday 1720 att 10 a clock in the morning y^e 17th of Eapril.

“ ‘George Galbraith was born at Carlow y^e 10 of November 1721 a friday at half an hour after six in y^e evening.’

“On the last page appears a note, apparently of a contract of marriage, as follows :—‘M^{rs}. Elizabeth Galbraith of Clonmore in the Queen's County gentlewoman am holden and firmly bo^d unto George Rossell of the same town and County.’

“But the most interesting entry of all is that made on the fly-leaf pasted down on the inside of one of the covers, evidently written in a contemporary hand :—

“ ‘Munday y^e 8th Day of March, 170³. That day the Steeple of Killishan undermined & flung Downe by one Bambrick employed by Cap^t. Woollsely In Three Dayes Worke.’

“And then, as if the foregoing was not thought a sufficiently exact record of this act of Vandalism, it is repeated :—

“ ‘170³ 8th March, at 3 of y^e Clock in y^e afternoone y^e Steeple fell to y^e Ground being measured it was 105 foot highe or in Length.’

“That the destruction of the *round tower* of Killeshin is recorded in the foregoing manuscript notes, there can be little doubt. Not a vestige of it now remains, though Killeshin is pointed out in history as the site of one of these towers. The name ‘steeple’ was commonly applied to these structures, of which we have an instance in ‘Kellestown Steeple,’ county of Carlow, which, like Killeshin, is known to have formerly boasted of its round tower, and like it suffered from destructive hands, towards the beginning of the present century. The ‘Captain Woollsely,’ under whose employment the tower was ‘undermined and flung down,’ was probably the hero of the Boyne of that name, whose son or grandson subsequently obtained a baronetcy. Whatever may have been his object, it is certain that, at the present day, the destruction of a round tower, ‘105

foot highe,' on the classic and hallowed ground of Killeshin, would not be tolerated."

Mr. Prim referred to the Society's "Journal," Vol. iii., p. 402, where in "A Journey to Kilkenny in the 1709, from the MS. Notes of Dr. Thomas Molyneux," edited by the Rev. James Graves, the then recent destruction of Killeshin Round Tower was noticed, and large fragments were described as seen by Molyneux lying on the ground, and retaining their tubular form. The entry in the book kindly sent for inspection by Mr. Clayton Browne through Mr. Malcomson furnished the further interesting information of the exact height of the round tower, and the date of its destruction, and, by a just retribution, after the lapse of more than a century and a half, gave to public execration the names of the persons engaged in that barbarous deed.

Mr. Prim informed the meeting of the discovery of two interesting sepulchral monuments in the course of carrying out the arrangements for putting up a new heating apparatus in the parish church of St. Mary, Kilkenny. In sinking a trench for the main pipe, in the south transept, and near the great transept window, at the distance of a few inches beneath the recent flooring flags, the workmen came on an altar tomb, from which, however, the covering stone had been at some former period removed. On digging at the sides, it was found that the tomb rested on the original floor of the church, which was more than three feet lower than the present, and it was, no doubt, standing in its original site. The tomb was full of clay, which was not removed: however, it is more than probable that at the time when the covering slab was taken away—at least a century since—the remains in the tomb were disturbed. But, be this as it may, whatever sculptures the missing covering stone may have borne, the supporting stone at the head of the tomb bears an inscription which affords information about two of the persons for whom the monument was erected. This inscription is in raised old English characters, as follows:—

*Hic Jacent Walterus Archer filius Joh'is
quond' burgen' ville Kilkennie q' obiit p'mo die
Decembris A. D. 1575.*

*Et Johana Hacket uxor ejusdē Walteri q'
obiit 16 die Septembris a. d. 1565 qorū
aiab' propiciet' de' Amē.*

Walter Archer fitz John was one of the two Portreeves (corresponding to the modern municipal sheriffs) of the Corporation of

Kilkenny, in 1528 ; and he was probably the same Walter Archer who was elected Sovereign, or chief magistrate of the Corporation, for the years 1542 and 1544. His father, John Archer, was elected Sovereign of Kilkenny for the year 1499 ; and there is a particular interest attaching to him, inasmuch as it appears he fell in battle, doubtless heading the inhabitants of the town, under the banner of their feudal chief, the Earl of Ormonde. Sir James Ware, (*" Works,"* edited by his son) in the *Annals of the Reign of Henry VII.*, thus records the fact, under the date "*Anno Domini 1499, et Anno Regni XV.*":—

"At this time the affairs were very troublesome in Connaught : and therefore the Earl of Kildare led his Army this year into that Province, where he took and garrisoned four castles Whilst these things were doing in Connaught, a battle was fought in Munster between Peter Butler [Earl of Ormonde] and Tirlagh O'Brian, who, the year before, had been elected Earl of Thomond, by the death of Gilduff ; at first they fought stoutly on both sides, but at last Butler and his men were put to the flight, and many were slain, of whom the Sovereign of Kilkenny was one, for so at that time the city magistrate was called ; what may be the cause of the fight I cannot for certain affirm ; some do avouch this dissention to have taken its first rise about certain lands and limits, which each of them claimed to himself."

A mural monument of another Archer, under the great window of the south transept, and neighbouring the newly discovered tomb, would serve to indicate that portion of the church to have been the burial place of this ancient and respectable Kilkenny family. Johanna, the wife of Walter fitz John Archer, was probably a daughter of Nicholas Hackett, who was Sovereign in 1526, and whose monument may be seen in the Cathedral of St. Canice. By the side of this tomb, and also on the level of the ancient floor of the church—but broken into three pieces, and the central part sunk deeper in the earth, as if at some time borne down by a great weight being placed upon it—was found a much more ancient and curious monument, although perhaps not so interesting, in the absence of present knowledge of the history of the persons whom it was intended to commemorate. It was a coffin-shaped slab, bearing a female effigy, the body in very low, but the head in high relief. The lady wears on her head a kind of flat cap and fillet, and the hair is gathered into a bunch, like the Edwardian curl, at either side of the face. The right hand and arm are placed across the breast ; the left, extended by the side. The robe is confined at the waist by an embroidered girdle, the end of which hangs down in front. The execution of the figure is very indifferent throughout. Running along the right edge of the slab and turning round at the end under the feet is to be seen an inscription in Norman

French—the letters in the incised old Lombardic character — as follows :—

✠ HELEYNE LA FEMME WILIAM DE ARMAYL GIT ICI DEU DE SA ALME
EIT ME'.

This tomb, now placed in the church-yard, appeared to belong to the latter part of the thirteenth century. Who William de Armayl was, Mr. Prim said he was not at present able to say. He had not met with the name in connexion with Kilkenny in the olden time.

The following papers were submitted to the Meeting :—

IRISH MEDICAL SUPERSTITION.

BY THE LATE JOHN WINDELE, ESQ.

A HIGHLY interesting series of papers illustrative of the still existing vestiges of the ancient Paganism of Ireland might be written even now, notwithstanding the many changes from various causes which have been effected amongst us within the last quarter of a century. We have ample material in our old literature and the abundant current folk-lore of the country. It is now, doubtless, too late to disinter from such deposits the whole system of the Irish Pantheon, but a sufficiency remains accessible to elucidate a very considerable portion of it. We know that the progress of Christian conversion was by no means so general or so rapid as many would suppose. There reigned Pagan kings in Ireland subsequent to the alleged establishment of the new faith by St. Patrick; and even so late as the eleventh century we have evidence of the prevalence of the old religion in the remoter districts, and in many of the islands on our western coasts. The public worship of Heathen deities no doubt had ceased amongst the mass of the population, but many privately practised it with a tenacity worthy of a better cause. It is singular that, whilst the memory of the *Dii magni* appears to have died out in the lapse of ages, the full belief in the minor powers—the *Dii minores*—firmly maintained its hold despite every effort to eradicate it. Reason and the immense authority of the Church have in vain opposed this baneful error. The popular mind has sought to reconcile this creed with the doctrine of fallen angels, and thus to harmonize it with Christianity. The baffled missionary had tacitly to abandon the contest; and where he found ancient sites and monuments of the old faith still drawing upon the popular veneration, had to yield to it, and, by adoption and reconsecration for